

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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George B. Tschuck, treasurer of The Bee

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8. GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to

before me this 1st day of April, 1909.

M. F. WALKER,

Notary Public.

(Seal)

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.

Subscribers leaving the city tempo-

orarily should have The Bee

mailed to them. Address will be

changed as often as requested.

To veto, or not to veto—that is the

question that is up to Governor Shal-

lenberger.

For a man who is trying to avoid

publicity, Mr. Roosevelt is succeeding

mightily well.

No brass band at the station when

Douglas county's demo-pop law-makers

come sneaking home.

If Nebraska has any hopes born in

the glad springtime, the late legisla-

ture can plead an alibi.

One can but marvel how Crazy

Snake's parents selected such an ap-

propriate name for him.

Now that the legislature has ad-

journing, the Water board and its high-

priced attorneys will again rest easier.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company

wants a re-hearing. Those lawyers will

never get tired of tapping the oil bar-

rel.

We suggest that Governor Shal-

lenberger read over each morning for

the next few days that part of his in-

augural message about too many new

laws.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody

good. At least the telegraph companies

are reaping their profit from the ac-

tion of the legislature in putting the

daylight saloon bill up to the governor.

Oxford has cleaned up Cambridge

in the annual boat race. If it were Yale

beating Harvard there would be a

jubilee celebration in the White

House.

It is decidedly appropriate that

the Optimist club should have a dinner

whenever it meets. A man is not in-

clined to be optimistic on an empty

stomach.

Congressman Fitzgerald says Bryan

does not know what he is talking

about. It could not be expected that

one who talks as much as Bryan

should always know what he was talk-

ing about.

Omaha is still the only city of its

size in the union on which the fire-

men's double shift is imposed by

statute. In other words, the experi-

ment in Omaha has not yet proved

contagious.

An Ohio man seeks a divorce be-

cause his wife marched in a temper-

ance procession. Possibly the man

might help smooth over the mat-

rimonial difficulties if he would ride on

the water wagon.

The refusal to extradite Jan Pour-

en again serves notice on foreign

countries that political refugees can

find a safe haven in the United States.

The subterfuge of extradition on

trumped up criminal charges will not

suffice.

Nebraska need not lose any sleep

over that bill to require the states that

shared in the \$29,000,000 distributed

by congress in 1836 to put it back.

Nebraska did not even aspire to state-

hood until thirty years after that fa-

mous grab-bag was pulled off.

The Baltimore clerk, who was dis-

covered to be a defaulter to the ex-

tent of \$100,000, is said to have forty

suits and ten overcoats in his ward-

robe and now he must go where he

will not need them for the state will

furnish him all the necessary clothing.

A Spite Bill.

In the expiring hour of the session the legislature has passed a daylight saloon bill particularly aimed at Omaha as reprisal for the obnoxious performances of the law-makers sent down to Lincoln with commissions to represent this city and county.

The daylight saloon was not an issue of the campaign and the only motive behind the action of the legislature in this case is that of spite and revenge.

Ostensibly the bill is in answer to a demand of the temperance element, voiced by the Anti-Saloon league, but even here it concedes more than the anti-saloon people have been asking.

In the recent primary just held in Omaha the officers of the Anti-Saloon league propounded questions to candidates for the city council, that relating to the closing of saloons being: Will you, if elected, vote for an ordinance closing saloons at 11 o'clock?

In Omaha, therefore, the ultimate goal which the Anti-Saloon league had hoped to reach for the present was 11 o'clock closing and not 8 o'clock closing, although, of course, it would doubtless prefer the latter as a little closer to total prohibition.

The only way a bill legally passed by the two houses of the legislature can be headed off after adjournment is by gubernatorial veto. Assuming that the daylight saloon bill has properly gone through the legislative stages, of which there is much question, it devolves on the governor to say whether or not it shall be law with or without his signature, or whether he shall interpose his official disapproval, which would be final.

The Insurgents' Demands.

The house republican insurgents have formulated a series of demands, and presented them to the ways and means committee in the shape of amendments to the tariff bill, which they want submitted when the Payne bill comes up for action. To these demands the signatures of some thirty members have already been attached, with the prospects that they will be re-enforced altogether by fifty or sixty members.

The demands of the insurgents cover several points, including the coal and iron schedules and the restoration of a duty on hides, proposed to be put on the free list. If these items are submitted to separate votes, it is quite possible that the house may make a few changes in the bill, as agreed on by the ways and means committee, but the chances all are that the tariff bill will pass the house substantially unchanged and undergo whatever modification is in store after it reaches the senate.

To venture a prediction as to how the tariff bill will look after the senators get through with it would be a rash undertaking. It is certain that the final form will have to be brought about by a compromise and reconciliation of conflicting interests through the conference committee.

The demands of the house insurgents may do some good in focusing the fight at certain points, but to make sure that anything they may gain now is not lost later, they should insist as well upon representation on the conference committee when it shall be appointed.

Worth Draws Its Tribute.

Nothing that the American people have done in recent years is more to their credit than the high tributes they paid Admiral Cervera, who has just died in his Spanish home. In the midst of war, when passions ran high and the country was flushed with victory, it paused long enough in the jubilation to do honor to the defeated leader of the enemy. Admiral Cervera had taken the fighting man's chance and did the best he could, but even in defeat, commanded respect. No childish whimpering, no exhibition of impotent rage, no idle vapors, such as characterized the brutal Weyer, but a courtly gentleman and a sailor, who did his fighting only when there was fighting to do.

During his detention in this country as a nominal prisoner of war, he grew upon the country and when the time came for him to return home he left behind him many true friends and admirers. Since then he has so conducted himself as to heighten the regard in which he was held and at his bier there will be no more sincere mourners in his own land than in this. Some characters are strong enough to rise superior to defeat, while others generally esteemed great, display great littleness when shorn of the glamour of victory.

Of Cervera's abilities as a naval commander probably only those trained in the service are capable of accurately judging. It was Cervera the man whom the world, and the American public in particular, honored. No technical training was necessary to detect these qualities in him.

The Fitzgerald Incident.

Mr. Fitzgerald pays his compliments to Mr. Bryan in acknowledgment of the exhortation given him in The Commoner, and pays Mr. Bryan back with some of his own coin. Mr. Fitzgerald not only revives the old question, "What is a democrat?" but insists that if he led the ignoble twenty-three in the tie-up with the Cannon forces for the organization of the house, he has just as much a right to call himself a democrat as has Mr. Bryan. In fact, he does not hesitate to declare that he thinks a democrat who is elected by his constituents should have more to say about it than another democrat who has been three times defeated. He further suggests that if Mr. Bryan does not think Mr. Fitzgerald's brand of democracy is good enough to pass muster, he

should have let it be known last summer when he was circulating some Fitzgerald speeches as campaign documents to catch votes. This parting shot is along the same line as the question which The Bee asked a little while ago as to why, if Mr. Fitzgerald and the rest of the twenty-three were all that Mr. Bryan now says they are, he did not denounce them prior to election, knowing then that their corporation strings were, just as well as he knows them now.

All of which furnishes convincing evidence in support of Mr. Bryan's assertion that the democratic party was never stronger and more harmonious than it is today and never had brighter prospects for a victory in the next big fight.

Revenues and Retrenchment.

Recent intimations that the senate leaders propose to solve the government's perplexing fiscal problem by cutting down expenditures instead of levying new taxes indicate a welcome reversion to an old time honored policy. Always providing the senate carries its proposed reform into execution. The first step toward that end has been taken by the creation of a new senate committee on public expenditures, whose duty will be to scrutinize carefully the estimates of the heads of the executive powers for guidance of the senate in making appropriations.

If the new policy is carried out it will necessitate a decided reform in the senate customs. Under the constitution and practice all bills for raising revenue and paying out the proceeds originate in the house, but it has long been the custom for the senate to fix finally the amount of the appropriations. The record of the upper body for years is not an argument for conservatism in the matter of spending money. According to the record, the house has been, in fact, the watch dog of the treasury and all appropriation bills have been enlarged and increased in the senate, after they have been passed by the house. In the last three sessions of congress alone the senate has added a total of \$147,701,000 to the general appropriation bills approved by the house. It has been the custom of the senate to add liberally to pension bills, river and harbor measures, appropriations for public buildings, and, in short, to all money carrying measures presented by the house. This plan has become so common that it has led to complaint among the house members, who have argued that no matter how hard they have worked to reduce expenditures and make a record for economy their plans have been upset by the senate.

If economy is to be the order of the day and the reformatory spirit is really abroad in the senate the problem of federal revenues may be solved by saving the millions added by the senate to the appropriation bills as passed by the house. We are yearly spending a vast amount of money, not more than we can afford and not so much, perhaps, as might be intelligently used, but it is being spent without any definite policy for the enterprises that are the big absorbers of money. A nation with an income of about \$2,000,000 a day should not have much difficulty in living within its means if a general plan were adopted by which all the money really needed may be appropriated and a bar put against the expenditure of a penny for waste.

To get a retirement pension an Omaha school teacher will have to show up a record of continuous service that would put her past the Oserizing age. But she is not required to tell how old she is. This is the saving clause of the pension scheme.

The anti-saloon preachers like to talk about their movement as a part of a great moral uplift. What will they say about getting a bill through the legislature by doctored the records? Will they fall back on the excuse that the end justifies the means?

Congressman Fitzgerald thinks Mr. Bryan should be silent "out of obligation of gratitude to his party." Congressman Fitzgerald does not know Mr. Bryan as well as another democratic congressman or he would not have mentioned gratitude.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company is asking that the \$1,500,000 fine imposed upon it by the Texas courts be set aside as excessive. This thing of protesting against fines running up into the millions is becoming chronic with the oil companies.

The daylight saloon was not in any platform put before the people of Nebraska in the last campaign. Here is a chance to apply Mr. Bryan's rule of interpretation that a platform is binding as to what it omits as well as to what it contains.

Just because anyone in Omaha may run for police commissioner under the new dispensation is no good reason why everyone in Omaha should want to run for police commissioner.

The chorus girl generally has a kick coming, but she cannot consistently complain of the proposed tariff on stockings—she gets something to show for her money.

The first of the month brought an unusual number of bills to Governor Shallenberger. By the time he has settled for them he will be politically bankrupt.

Reporters at the White House.

Among the other good habits of the Taft administration is the admission of reporters by appointment, and, conversely, where the most babies are born, there the most babies die.

Washington Life

Short sketches of incidents and episodes that mark the progress of events at the nation's capital.

Ellsworth E. Lounsbrough of Sheridan, Wyo., while in Washington last week, worked off on the local papers a beautiful interview for state and city. "Wyoming is looking forward to a great influx of people for the next year or two," he said. "Not only have we wonderful natural resources, but the federal government, by its irrigation, has aided materially in the development of the state. The Shoshone dam, which has just been completed, will irrigate 100,000 acres of land that heretofore has been absolutely arid. Other irrigation works in process of construction will open up approximately an area of 600,000 acres, and this vast territory will prove a magnet for many persons. We expect to make Wyoming not a mere agricultural and grazing country, but a busy industrial state."

"Sheridan undoubtedly is the best city in the state. Without a few miles of Sheridan are some of the most remarkable coal mines on the continent. It is not necessary to go below the level to mine coal. All that has to be done is to dig in the hills. Recently I went into one of these mines, and, looking up, I could see tons and tons of coal. The hills about the mine were nothing but coal. It is true, it is not the best grade of coal. It is a lignite—geologists call it semibituminous coal—but it is a first class domestic fuel, and the railroads use it in their engines."

"Sheridan is a city of about 12,000 people, set in the curve of a horseshoe formed by a mountain range. It has an altitude of 2,500 feet, and the mountains surrounding it rise to a height of 13,000 feet. The country surrounding Sheridan is watered by twenty-four streams, flowing down from the mountainside, and the city itself lies in a junction of two of these streams."

The preliminary stages of a movement projected by the executive department and the senate for greater national economy provokes discussion among observers on the spot. "Assuming that congress has the courage to cut deep," writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, "where should the cuts be made? The proposed bill for \$51,000,000. Millions could and should be saved by the elimination of unworthy claims. Are there those who believe such an elimination possible? What would the country say to a deep cut in \$10,000,000 for the army, in \$17,000,000 for the navy, \$6,000,000 for fortifications and \$2,000,000 for the military academy? Leaving out the postal account, which includes the post office, the appropriations for this year are approximately \$500,000,000. The pension and navy accounts call for about \$100,000,000. The Department of Agriculture receives \$13,000,000. The diplomatic and consular service costs \$3,000,000. The Indian bill is \$10,824,028. Announce that there will be no pay for rivers and harbors, for public buildings, and the country will announce its purpose to elect a congress that will be more liberal."

"With these accounts taken out of the consideration there is not much left out of which to chop imposing sums. The congress is the agent of the people. Any effective economy can come only in response to a public demand for a halt or a reduction. The people demand, congress appropriates, and the people pay. If the people do not wish to pay, they must cease or modify their demands. Congress is responsible for sundry millions of dollars which go for what comes very near to political graft, for the maintenance of offices which are little short of sinecures, and for many quite needless purposes, yet if any heavy inroads were made in all or any of these the proceeding would excite a roar that would shake the capital. Congress can and should save money, but the order to save dollars must come from the people."

After a silence of twelve years Congressmen Brownlow of Tennessee has told some of his friends a joke on himself which is looked upon around the capitol corridors as the best thing that has been heard in ages. Mr. Brownlow has broken the long silence only because his search for a certain telephone girl in Washington has been unsuccessful and he wants assistance. He desires to get her a place in the government service as a reward for her self exhibition of repartee he has ever heard.

Mr. Brownlow is a republican, but in the closing days of the Cleveland administration he was persona grata at the White House. There was a federal job in Tennessee which he wanted for a constituent. A democratic colleague also wanted the place, and he had started for the White House one day to clinch matters. Brownlow heard of it. He knew he could not overtake his political opponent, so he endeavored to beat him to it on the telephone. He gave the White House number several times, but could not get a connection. He finally lost his patience with the telephone operator and said things which were not nice and in his anger got all mixed up. "Well, what is it you want, anyway?" murmured the helio girl.

"Give me some one who is my equal in intelligence," roared Brownlow.

"There was a pause, a click, then a sweet voice which said: "Hello, what is it?"

"Who's this?" shouted Mr. Brownlow, still out of patience.

The answer came back: "St. Elizabeth's insane asylum."

Ex-Senator F. M. Patterson of Colorado, interviewed in Washington, expresses the belief that Mr. Bryan will never again be a candidate for the presidency. "Mr. Bryan was at my house in Denver a few weeks ago, and while the subject was not mentioned, I am inclined to believe that he would not permit himself to be placed in the attitude of even being a receptive candidate. He will always be found ready to serve the party, however," Mr. Patterson's evidence is far from conclusive. He hopes that Mr. Bryan will be chosen United States senator from Nebraska.

Perils of Pole Hunting. New York World.

The difficulties encountered by Lieut. Shackleton's party in the final dash for the North Pole. The South Pole prove that in spite of dogs, sledges, Siberian ponies, motor cars and all mechanical appliances for progress over polar ice, it is on the human legs that the explorer must depend in the end. Whatever a balloon or an aeroplane may accomplish in the final dash for the North Pole, it is not likely to be useful on the blizzard-swept plateau at the South Pole. But legs are always the good old reliable mainstay.

Paying the Rebate Penalty. Philadelphia Record.

The New York Central has pleaded guilty to ten counts of rebating and paid \$1,000 for each. The offenses were committed some years ago. It is pretty safe to say that there is not much rebating at present, which means that the railroads are getting a considerable fraction thereof to the big shippers who threaten to ship over some other line.

Washington Life

Short sketches of incidents and episodes that mark the progress of events at the nation's capital.

Probably the most effective vindication of Mr. Harriman's theories is Mr. Harriman's success. He and the men who have accepted his financial guidance have acquired, it is popularly believed, some substantial savings with which to tide over a rainy day. This is the main proof of the Harriman pudding.

When, therefore, one master railroad director announces startling general policies concerning railway management, he is entitled to wholly respectful and considerate attention. Mr. Harriman announces that if all the railroads of the country were under one control (and he has asserted that it would be a good thing for everybody if they were) he would immediately begin to expend \$200,000,000 or so in improvements, especially in standardizing the weak lines.

"This would be done openly," declares the wizard of railways, "but it should be done immediately. Yet we would all be put in prison, if we tried it." This concluding deduction probably is sound. Also if Mr. Harriman controlled all the railways it is practically certain he would at once begin spending \$200,000,000 dollars for betterments. His policies always have favored spending money for betterments. Unlike his predecessor in Wall street and railway, he also was known as the "Wizard." Harriman is not a wrecker; he is a builder. Some of the streaks of rust he has taken over in his time are now great properties in every physical respect. And when this \$200,000,000 began to flow out the country would be immensely benefited. The steel industry, for example, would leap to its feet.

Why, then, then, call off the dogs, and let Mr. Harriman have his way without fearing Mr. Wickersham's police? Simply because the man who became the unquestioned dictator of all our railways could in time become the overlord of all the rest of us and ours, and we are not sufficiently enlightened to see the purpose of any person now engaged in fortune building to put him on the job of dictating.

EXECUTIVE ECONOMY. Move to Bring Expenditures and Revenues Closer Together. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The announcement that President Taft has laid down for his administration the rule of co-operation between the departments in the expenditure of the public moneys, and to "bring about a responsible relationship between the expenditures and the revenues," will be welcome to the plain people. It is the overlooking of this common-sense economy that has been the greatest weakness of our government of late years.

Such a much-needed change to an older fashion is also remarkable in its shift from the original theory of representative government. That theory, developed as royalty began to call on the people to pay taxation for the government's support, was that as the people yield the support their representatives should have the exclusive right to authorize and to place a limit on taxation and expenditures. The purpose was to maintain through the representative branch a check on royal lavishness or the waste of public funds on royal favorites. The principle of the people holding the purse strings is the foundation of all constitutional power. It was the crucial issue between Parliament and Charles I. and was the leverage by which republicanism overthrew the Bourbon monarchy. It was copied in our constitutional enactments that taxing and expenditure measures must originate in the lower house, and that no public money can be expended except by authority of an appropriation.

But in this country, after a growth of popular government hardly dreamed of in those days, we find the function shifted. The popular chamber hardly listens to even theoretic professions of economy. This devolves on the administration the necessity of caring for that principle. The present proposition for observing it in the estimates of the coming fiscal year. But that it can be carried to a more effective degree is manifest in the fact that there is no constitutional requirement for any administration to spend all the money appropriated for its use.

LIFE INSURANCE. Enormous Volume of Business in the United States. Philadelphia Record.

The annual compilation of life insurance statistics made by The New York Spectator shows to what an enormous extent the people of this country protect themselves and their families against death and other catastrophes by weekly or monthly and annual payments entitling themselves and their heirs to annuities or lump sums. Figures are an unconvincing evidence of present and self-depend on so vast a scale as to prove a national habit.